GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5779
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2003
REVIEW OF FOREIGN AID POLICY
PADAMSEN CHAUDHARY;SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL);TUFANI SAROJ

Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to review its foreign aid policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government propose to write off the debt of heavily indebted poor countries in the next fiscal year;

(d) if so, the total amount of loan to be written off, country-wise;

(e) whether the Government have also decided to dovetail the India Development Initiative Fund set up with a corpus of Rs.200 crore with project exports support provided by Exim Bank and Export Credit Guarantee Corporation; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri Anandrao V. Adsul)

(a) and (b): An initiative to promote India as a production centre and an investment destination,called `India Development Initiative` has been established in the Ministry of Finance with an allocation of Rs.200 crores for the year 2003-04. It is envisaged that this initiative will leverage and promote India`s strategic economic interests abroad.

(c) and (d): Yes, Sir. The outstanding dues of seven Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPCs)are proposed to be written off. The amounts of outstanding dues are given as under, country-wise:

Name of the country	Outstanding dues (as on 31.3.2003)
Tanzania	Rs.37.30 crore
Ghana	Rs.0.01 crore
Mozambique	Rs.19.91 crore
Nicaragua	Rs.22.02 crore
Zambia	Rs.13.40 crore
Guyana	Rs.2.78 crore
Uganda	US $ 5.332 million

(e): No, Sir.

(f): Does not arise in view of (e) above.